

Dear Medicaid client:

Your prescription drug coverage has changed. Before January 1, 2006, the state's Medicaid program paid for your drugs. That changed on January 1, when the federal Medicare program began paying this cost.

This change is a new feature of Medicare. It is called "Medicare Part D."

Medicare Part D is a federal program. Washington State is no longer involved in paying for the drugs you need. But there are a few important things for you to remember:

- The pharmacy must accept your word that you are on Medicaid and Medicare. During January, your Medicare Drug Plan must give you a 30-day supply of your current drugs. Take this letter along with you and show it to the pharmacist.
- Unless you are living in a nursing home, you now have to make a co-payment on each prescription. You cannot be charged more than \$5 for each drug.
- If your Medicare Drug Plan refuses to cover a drug, you have three choices:
 - Choose a different Medicare Drug Plan.
 - File an appeal with your drug plan.
 - Talk to your doctor about the drug choices you have under your plan.
- If you do not have a drug plan, your pharmacist can enroll you into a national plan called WellPoint. WellPoint will give you a 14-day supply of drugs and help you select a permanent plan.
- You have the right to choose a drug plan that is fully paid by the government. Be sure to ask about the premium and co-pays when you are comparing plans.

This is a new system, and it confused many people. For several months now, TV and newspaper ads have been telling us how easy Part D would be. Well, it's not easy. It's hard.

But with help, you can figure it out. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Above all, do not let your prescriptions lapse or stop taking the medicine your doctor prescribed. Once you get used to the changes, I know you will be able to make Part D work for you.

Sincerely,